



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

An ICC initiative

BASIS

Business Action to Support
the Information Society

ICC BASIS intervention 7 by Ayesha Hassan Open Consultation-Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Geneva, 3 September 2007

My work has also been made easier by my colleagues who have intervened earlier.

I would like to say that on behalf of ICC/BASIS, we would support the idea that APC has put forward about the evaluation or assessment of the role of a co-chair from the host country. We do recognize that the host country carries a very big burden and has a very special place in the IGF. And an assessment after the IGF in Rio would be a useful way forward. To be very clear, ICC/basis members have supported the multistakeholder Advisory Group and would like to just clearly state that as the ideas for rotation and assessment, et cetera, are ongoing, we do not support the formation of a bureau of any kind.

I would also like to bring up the point that Parminder of I.T. for Change has just stated in talking about transparency and openness regarding the Advisory Group and the work that the Advisory Group does. We fully support ideas in that regard and would look forward to finding new and interesting ways to make it more interactive with the greater community. Another point I think that we all recognize as we are going into this second IGF, that the convening of the Advisory Group at a very late date has made things more challenging. And we would hope that as we do this evaluation for how rotation or renewal should be implemented going forward that we are very cognizant of the time involved in planning for the IGF event and the benefits of having an Advisory Group in place and convened by the U.N. Secretary-General at an early date.

We also support the ideas of continuity and rotation which APC stated. We also suggest that some of the communities should be taking some time between now and the IGF in Rio to come up with some additional ideas and perhaps some kind of a public comment on proposals after the IGF in Rio to quickly get started on thinking about ideas, because each community may need to handle this in a different way in terms of the ways in which they recommend possible people to rotate in and out. As we've stated before, the critical thing is maintaining a multistakeholder balance and positive representation of all the different interests.

Thank you.

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What is Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS)?

ICC created BASIS to serve as the voice of business in the global dialogue on the Information Society, following the two World Summits on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005). BASIS participates in UN-linked forums set up to continue the dialogue, such as the Global Alliance for ICT and development (GAID), the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the WSIS follow-up and implementation processes.

BASIS builds on the activities and network of the Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors (CCBI), which ICC formed to coordinate participation by world business in the processes leading up to and at the Summits in Geneva and Tunis.

To promote the environment in which global business will continue to thrive as an innovator of these technologies, BASIS mobilizes business to help shape the agenda and participate in these global discussions. The initiative aims to unite the business community, to raise awareness among the public, governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and technical authorities of what business requires to continue contributing to the development of the Information Society. BASIS relies on policies developed in ICC's Commission on E-business, IT and Telecoms (EBITT) as the foundation for its efforts.

For further information regarding BASIS, the founding partners, members and activities, please consult the BASIS website at: <http://www.iccwbo.org/basis>.

About ICC

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its thousands of member companies in over 130 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.

A world network of national committees keeps the ICC International Secretariat in Paris informed about national and regional business priorities. More than 2000 experts drawn from ICC's member companies feed their knowledge and experience into crafting the ICC stance on specific business issues.

The United Nations, the World Trade Organization, and many other intergovernmental bodies, both international and regional, are kept in touch with the views of international business through ICC.

For more information please visit: www.iccwbo.org